Post 2/10/09 – 2/22/09

RIDER ALERT!

- State Cuts Public Transportation Funding
- Service Reductions, Fare Increases Proposed
- Open Houses Scheduled to Get Public Input

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST. To request this notice in an alternative format, please call (619) 231-1466. The Metropolitan Transit System operators adhere to a nondiscrimination policy with regard to both services and facilities.

Open Houses

MTS will be holding public open houses at transit centers beginning February 18. The public is invited to learn how the state budget crisis impacts MTS services as well as to provide MTS with input on the proposed changes and ideas on other ways to close the budget gap. A schedule of these events is at the bottom of this Rider Alert.

Background

To balance its budget, the State of California will propose to permanently reduce or eliminate State Transit Assistance to public transit agencies throughout the state. To MTS, this would mean a reduction of up to $14 million every year. MTS depends on this money to provide its services.

To make up for this shortfall, MTS must consider reducing its services and/or increasing fares. Proposed service changes include reduced frequency of service, shortened hours of operation on some routes, restructured routes, elimination of weekend service on some routes and the complete elimination of other routes. This proposal is designed to impact as few passengers as possible, but the majority of routes in the MTS network will be changed in some way.

Members of the public are invited to talk to MTS staff and provide their input on service adjustments at the public open houses. Information received at these events will assist MTS staff in making final recommendations to the MTS Board of Directors at the public hearings scheduled for March. **For more information, call (619) 595-4912.**

Open House Schedule

Wednesday, 02/18/09
11 am – 7 pm
- H Street Trolley Station
- UTC Transit Center

Thursday, 02/19/09
1 pm – 7 pm
- America Plaza

Thursday, 02/19/09
3 pm – 6:30 pm
- Mira Mesa MarketCenter

Friday, 02/20/09
6 am – 10 am
- Poway Rd. & Midland Rd.

Saturday, 02/21/09
11 am – 4 pm
- Fashion Valley Transit Center
- Euclid Trolley Station
- Old Town Transit Center

Sunday, 02/22/09
11 am – 4 pm
- El Cajon Transit Center
- Iris Avenue Trolley Station